Why should it thrive, and turn to nutriment,,
When he is turn'd to poison ?
O, may diseases only work upon't!
And, when he is sick to death[4], let not that part of
nature[5]
Which my lord paid for, be of any power
To expel sickness, but prolong his hour[6]!
[Exit.

has, &c. The modem editors read—Unto *this hour,* which may be right, STEEVENS.

I should have no doubt in preferring the modern reading, " unto this hour,*' as it is by far the stronger expression, so probably the right one. M. MASON*.

Mr. Ritson is of the same opinion. STEEVENS.

4 —to death,] If these words, which derange the metre,
were omitted, would the sentiment of Flarainius be impaired ?
STEEVENS.

5 —of NATURE—] So the common copies. Sir Thomas
Hanmer reads—nurture. JOHNSON.

Of nature is surely the most expressive reading. Flaminius considers that nutriment which Lucullus had for a length of time received at Timon's table, as constituting a great part of his animal system. STEEVENS.

[6] —HIS hour!] i. e. the hour of sickness. *His* for *its.*
STEEVENS.

His in almost every scene of these plays is used for *its,* but here, I think, " *his* hour " relates to Lucullus, and means *his life,*

If my notion be well founded, we must understand that the Steward wishes that the life of Lucullus may be prolonged only for the purpose of his being miserable ; that sickness may " play the torturer by small and small," and *Cf* have him nine whole years in killing."—'* Live loath'd and *long!*" says Timon in a subsequent scene; and again :

" Decline to your confounding
contraries, " And yet confusion *live*
I"

This indeed is nearly the meaning, if, with Mr. Steevens, we understand " his hour " to mean ** the hour of sickness : " and it must be owned that a line in Hamlet adds support to the interpretation :

" This physick but *prolongs thy sickly days."*
MA.LONE.

Mr. Malone's interpretation may receive further support from a passage in Coriolanus, where Menenius says to the Roman * Sentinel: " Be that you are, *long;* and your misery increase with your age/* STEEVENS.